

D R A F T

1 September 1960

WAR COLLEGE  
INSTRUCTION CIRCULAR  
PHASE 61-3

FACTORS AFFECTING  
U.S. MILITARY STRATEGY

14 November 1960  
-20 January 1961

WAR COLLEGE  
AIR UNIVERSITY  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA

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WAR COLLEGE  
Air University  
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Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

INSTRUCTION CIRCULAR)  
PHASE 61-3)

14 November 1960

FACTORS AFFECTING U. S. MILITARY STRATEGY

(14 November 1960 - 20 January 1961)

1. OBJECTIVE:

The objective of Phase 61-3 is to further understanding of the processes and factors which affect U. S. military strategy.

2. DISCUSSION:

In a democracy such as the United States, military strategy derives from national security policy which evolves from a long and complicated process of governmental agency actions. The national security policy which these agencies formulate is shaped by a great many forces which are present on the national and international scene.

Phase 61-3 is an analytical appraisal of this formulation process and the major factors which limit or otherwise significantly influence current military strategy. It is designed to show who makes decisions concerning military strategy and the various factors which must be taken into account when so doing.

It is recognized that the list of factors treated in this phase is not all inclusive. Some of the less important factors are omitted. Others are omitted because they are treated in other phases. For example, forces in being exert a significant influence upon strategy; however, since they will be studied in detail in Phase 61-4, they are not included in this phase. Also, the influence of economic considerations is a major factor affecting military strategy; however, the treatment of this factor in other phases is sufficient to show how it affects strategy. Some aspects of technology (weapon systems) will be examined in this phase; however, further treatment of the influence of technology on military strategy is reserved for Phase 61-5.

Upon completion of Phase 61-3, a greater appreciation should be gained of the fact that military strategy is not governed by military considerations alone. The student should also be able to view military strategy with a better understanding of the influences exerted by political, economic, sociological and technological factors.

### 3. PHASE DEVELOPMENT:

#### PART I - THE SINO-SOVIET BLOC THREAT AND FREE WORLD VULNERABILITY

##### OBJECTIVE:

The objective of Part I is to increase knowledge of Sino-Soviet military capabilities and the vulnerability of the United States and the Free World to Sino-Soviet Bloc aggression.

In this part of the phase, an examination is made of the nature of the threat against which U. S. military strategy is designed. Sino-Soviet Bloc capabilities and probable strategies are analyzed and the vulnerability of the U. S. and the Free World is assessed.

PART II - THE INFLUENCE OF INTELLIGENCE ON  
MILITARY STRATEGY

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of Part II is to increase understanding of the role of selected intelligence agencies in the formulation of military strategy.

PART III - THE ROLES OF SELECTED FEDERAL AGENCIES  
IN THE FORMULATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY  
POLICY

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of Part III is to increase knowledge of the process by which U. S. national security policy is formulated.

The functions of a number of agencies of the U. S. government will be examined.

PART IV - FACTORS INFLUENCING MILITARY STRATEGY

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of Part IV is to increase knowledge of some of the factors which influence military strategy.

PART V - RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of Part V is to increase knowledge of the organization, responsibilities and functions of the Department of Defense. In addition, service doctrine, roles and missions will be examined.

An analysis of the effectiveness of joint planning by the services is made in regard to implementation of security policies and decisions. This should provide information on the influence which assigned roles and missions, diverse service doctrines, and budget dollars have on joint planning.

PART VI - WEAPON SYSTEMS AND THEIR EFFECTS

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of Part VI is to increase knowledge of the weapon systems currently in the U. S. defense inventory and those which can be expected to enter the inventory during

the 1961 - 1965 time period. This part considers the effects of these weapon systems as they relate to the formulation of military strategy.

4. APPLICATION IN THE CURRICULUM:

In Phases 61-1 and 61-2, the student was presented information on the fundamental elements of international relations and of the characteristics of the current struggle between the Sino-Soviet Bloc and the Free World. Phase 61-3 is designed to provide an understanding of the major factors which affect U. S. military strategy and with the government machinery which formulates national security policy. With this background information, we will enter Phase 61-4, "Current U. S. Military Strategy."

The knowledge gained in Phase 61-3 regarding the factors which affect current U. S. military strategy will also apply to the study of future U. S. strategy in Phases 61-5 and 61-6.

5. PHASE REQUIREMENTS:

a. Seminars:

(1) During Phase 61-3, seminars will function under the leadership of student chairmen with designated faculty monitors available for advice and consultation.

(2) Lectures and assigned readings will provide

the basis for seminar discussions.

b. Written:

(1) Problem No. 1: This individual problem will afford each student an opportunity to examine all the factors which influence military strategy and to prepare a paper on the one which he feels more than any other is standing in the way of a better U. S. military strategy. At the seminar meeting on 10 January 1961, each seminar member will turn in to the seminar Faculty Advisor a paper indicating the single factor which in his opinion is most vitiating to an "ideal" military strategy for the United States. Justification of this selection (not more than the equivalent of two single space typewritten pages) will be included. Each seminar member will present orally his selection and justification to the seminar. Selected papers will be presented to the assembled class in the Lecture Hall, Room 1, at 1300 hours on 12 January 1961. Typing assistance will not be furnished by the College for this exercise. Papers may be in longhand provided they are legible.

(2) Problem No. 2: This group problem will afford the seminar an opportunity to analyze and prepare a paper on the agencies of the Federal Government which make

the decisions or otherwise directly influence U. S. military strategy. A complete statement of the problem is contained in Appendix G. Twelve (12) hours have been scheduled (see Appendix A) for seminar discussion or research on this problem. Seminars will present solutions to Problem No. 2 before Faculty Panels on 21 December 1960. Selected solutions may be presented to the assembled class in the Lecture Hall, Room 1, on 12 January 1961.

c. Book Analysis:

(1) At the seminar meeting on 15 November 1960, each member will be assigned a book from the list shown in Appendix F. The assignments will be made by the seminar chairman in accordance with each member's preference, insofar as possible.

(2) Each of the books listed in Appendix F makes a significant contribution to the overall study of military strategy and is related to information given from the lecture platform. These relationships should provide material for discussion in seminar meetings during the Phase.

(3) During the eighth and ninth weeks of the phase each seminar member will report orally to his seminar on the content of the book he has read. This report should



highlight information of interest with emphasis on that specifically related to Phase 61-3.

d. Readings:

(1) Reading references listed in Appendix B, "Lecture Scopes, Reading References and Biographical Sketches," should be read prior to and in preparation for the pertinent lectures.

RICHARD H. CARMICHAEL  
Major General, USAF  
Commandant

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1. Appendix A - Phase Calendar
2. Appendix B - Lecture Scopes,  
Reading References  
and Biographical  
Sketches
3. Appendix C - Bibliography
4. Appendix D - Seminar Assignments
5. Appendix E - Host Officers
6. Appendix F - Books for Student  
Analysis
7. Appendix G - Written Requirement

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